

NEWS RELEASE

*OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS*

*RANDY G. MASSEY
ACTING UNITED STATES ATTORNEY*

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

For Immediate Release

February 23, 2007

MEN SENTENCED TO FOR ROLES IN METHAMPHETAMINE MANUFACTURING CONSPIRACY

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced that two codefendants in a large methamphetamine manufacturing and distribution conspiracy centered in Wayne and White Counties were sentenced today in United States District Court in Benton.

KEVIN L. GARRETT, age 40, of Fairfield, Illinois, was sentenced to a term of 360 months (30 years) imprisonment, was ordered to pay fines and special assessments totaling \$1000, and was placed on a term of 10 years supervised release to follow his incarceration.

STEWART W. POORE, age 44, of Springerton, Illinois, was sentenced to a term of 240 months (20 years) imprisonment, was ordered to pay fines and special assessments totaling \$900, and was also placed on a term of 10 years supervised release to follow his incarceration.

GARRETT and **POORE** were charged along with 29 other defendants by a Federal Grand Jury in July 2005 with conspiring to manufacture and distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine. Both pled guilty to that offense in October 2006.

Under federal law, parole has been abolished and defendants are required to serve at least 85% of their sentences.

These guilty pleas resulted from a long term investigation into the manufacture of methamphetamine in Wayne and White counties. Thus far, that investigation, which began in 2003, has resulted in the federal indictment of 33 individuals in related cases who, in total, were responsible for the manufacture or attempted manufacture of the equivalent of over 400,000 grams of methamphetamine. In addition to the 33 defendants who have been indicted federally, over 20 additional defendants have been prosecuted in related cases in state court by the State's Attorneys in Wayne and White Counties.

Investigation into the case is on-going and is being led by the Carmi office of the Southern Illinois Drug Task Force, with the assistance of the Illinois State Police, the Fairfield Police Department, the Carmi Police Department, the White County Sheriff's Department, the Joint Narcotics Unit of the Mt. Vernon Police Department and Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, the Wayne County State's Attorney's Office, the White County State's Attorney's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James M. Cutchin.